

BAKST AN INSPIRATION TO THE MAKERS OF FASHION

Influence of the Russian Ballet to Be Felt in American Taste for Dress—Not the Weird Stage Costumes for the Street, but the Color, the Bold Grouping and Daring Outline

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINER.

In a little gray room on the third floor at Wanamaker's Miss Mary Wall, gray clad and as cool and serene as usual, sat in a sea of flame and smiled a greeting. The billows were of gauze and under them, over them, around them poured gold and silver and wonderful blues and yellows and greens—a riot of color.

The intruder, though lured to new art movements, gazed slightly—Miss Wall leans to smoky frock tones herself, is not given to color debauches, but when she moved her hand toward the gleaming and glowing stuffs that overflowed the room and murmured the cabalistic word "Bakst" all was explained.

Of course! The Russian ballet was to open in New York within a week and the effect of the Russian ballet upon American taste in dress was being provided for by the slim, quiet woman in gray, who has a trick of seeing into the future—perhaps 'tis the Irish in her.

"But isn't it all old news?" asked the intruder. "When Paris first went mad over Russian ballet, didn't the French dressmakers give us the message? Didn't we all go a la Russe whether it suited our style or not? Paris has had her Russophile rage, so far as costume is concerned, and we depend upon Paris ideas rather than our own taste, so do you really believe the season of Russian ballet here will have much effect upon the modes?"

She nodded decisively. "Of course it will. I don't believe it is possible for any one with the slightest feeling for art in dress to see the Russian ballet and not be influenced by it. And what the people who make clothes and fabrics and the women who buy them here in New York feel the whole country is bound to feel in some degree."

"Mind you, I don't mean that we are going around in Russian blouses and Russian boots and all that sort of thing. The clothes that are brought out under the influence of the Russian ballet will not be Russian. They will be Bakst."

"If I could have my way I'd have everybody who has the slightest connection with clothes making, from the little girl in the factory and the sewing girl in the workshop to the greatest manufacturers and designers in the country, see every performance of that Russian ballet; and I'd have them all taught, before they go, what to look for, though the thing will soak in, even if they don't know what to look for."

"Some people see only the grotesque in Bakst costume. They think that because no one could wear off the stage the weird and times he puts on the stage folk the man isn't worth the dressmaker's study; but don't go to Bakst for actual costumes, though a good many beautiful features of fashion have been developed of some detail suggested by him. You go to him for color, mass, bold grouping and blending and sharp contrasts and daring outline, but above all for color."

"We've had some Bakst exhibits over here. The artists liked them and most of the ordinary people laughed at them. People like to laugh at things they don't understand; but it isn't so queer that the public didn't take to Bakst piecemeal. If it doesn't take to him as he gives himself in the Russian ballet it will be because the sense of beauty is dead in the public, and that isn't so."

"The costumes in the ballet haven't more to offer to the designers than the scenery. It's the whole, glorious miracle of color that is the great thing—the thing I'd like to see soak into American taste—permeate it. One doesn't want to look like a Bakst scene or a Bakst dancer; but if all the dressmaking world knew how to use color and texture and light and mass and line one-hundredth part as well as Bakst does, we'd have an art of dress."

The enthusiast turned to a book that lay on a table beside her.

"Ever since Paris went crazy over the Russian ballet designers and dressmakers have been studying Bakst drawings and color reproductions," she went on. "This book is a sort of gospel. I bought it at a reasonable price, but I believe it is selling for \$70 or \$80 now and it is worth more than that to any one who knows how to make use of it."

"Of course, pictures can't give much idea of the Russian ballet. One must

see the thing itself and see it again and again. The first time you're likely to be too completely overwhelmed and bewildered to do any intelligent analyzing; but when the beauty begins to sink in it ought to make any designer set to work with new ideals and new power."

"I've been trying for some time to have a group of models worked out along Bakst lines—at a distance, I'll humbly admit, but still with the Bakst feeling as inspiration. They are to be shown the week of the Russian ballet opening and I was just looking over the few that are finished. Would you like to see them? They don't aim at any radical departure in line, you know."

"Bakst is not in the modern movement of dress. It's in the adaptation of his marvelous color schemes and mass effects and striking details to

about the bodice, some of the greenish golden yellow and deep yet bright blue that Bakst loves in combination.

A blue changeable taffeta of beautiful coloring had a bodice of gold and wide ribbon in gorgeous tones; and there was a rose and silver and purple—but words and black and white drawings can give no idea of color schemes lifted from a Bakst book or from the Russian ballet without intermediary.

Experiments in applying Bakst's bold splashes of color and line on one tone surfaces to modern costumes had resulted in a capelike wrap of much originality. The material was a soft, thick silk in putty color or a shade a little warmer, the neutrality of the cape offsetting the brilliant coloring of the big squares applied irregularly, one in a corner of the overlapping front, one on the left shoulder in the



Bakst gowns and a cloak.

that modern dress movement that there is big opportunity.

"Now here is the flame color that runs in and out and over all his scenery and groups and costumes. One can't get it out of one's eyes, after seeing the ballet Russe. Isn't it a glorious color—and yet a subtle color too?"

It was a lovely color. Bakst and Miss Wall were quite right about that; and in the shimmering silken gauze it flickered like veritable flame while here and there it flashed out tongues of gold.

There was more of the flame color, and there was a stunning frock all silver cloth striped in black and embroideries of silver and gold with

back and one in a corner falling low on the right side in the back.

Where Bakst paints in stripes of contrasting colors to form motifs, blending daring harmonies in his own audacious way, the cape maker had used applied ribbons, repeating one of Bakst's own color schemes, and had obtained admirable results.

"When one gets to thinking in such colors the thing is an obsession," said Miss Wall, shaking out the folds of flame and silver and gold. "The only way our designers can avoid being influenced by Bakst is by staying away from the Russian ballet or leaving their own brains behind when they go."

SUGGESTIONS FOR PANCAKE DAY

SHROVE TUESDAY, the time honored pancake day, falls this year on March 7. So, for the housewives who are intending to give pancake suppers, perhaps a few new recipes may serve as well as some that may have been forgotten, may prove to be useful. The making of plain pancakes has but few pitfalls for the unwary, but the art is in their proper cooking. A pancake connoisseur insists that pancakes be cooked right and a wrong side, that with the finely molded appearance being the right side and should, therefore, be served upmost.

For those, if there be any, who have not been initiated into the mysteries of a pancake spread a few words of explanation may serve to introduce them to a rather unique evening supper. The supper may follow a small and early dance, but in many households it takes the place of the regular dinner. The feast consists of three courses of cakes. These are cooked at tables where the ingredients should also be mixed. The sauces are prepared in the kitchen. Electrically heated aluminum griddles that require no greasing make this sort of table cookery possible and are ideal cooking utensils. The perforated turner, also of aluminum, will be found the best to lift the cakes with while they are cooking.

The first course of the feast includes two kinds of savory pancakes. These may be the potato pancakes, with the butter sauce, and the plain wheat pancakes, with the Brazilian sauce; the lentil pancakes, with tomato sauce, and rice pancakes with curry sauce, or lima pancakes with cheese sauce and buckwheat cakes with sausage. The second course is the straight wheat cakes, served four to a portion, with sweet butter, maple syrup and whipped cream, or plain cream. If the hostess desires, preserved sprig plums may also be served. For the last course the French rolled jelly pancakes, the mocha pancakes, the Austrian pancakes and the buckwheat cakes are served.

The feast is preceded by a fruit cocktail, while good coffee is served throughout the three courses. No iced drinks, none of the usual condiments or relishes should be in evidence, for they have no place in this sort of a spread.

The most satisfactory way of using the batter after it is made is to turn it into a pitcher that has a long, slender spout and pour the cakes of equal size.

Potato Pancakes.—Grate four medium sized raw potatoes into a bowl, add half a cup of milk, half a teaspoonful of salt and two eggs. Beat all well together until the batter is light. Sift in two cups of flour, half a teaspoonful of baking powder and if the batter is too heavy add a little more milk until it is the right consistency. Fry the cakes in the usual way and make them as thin as possible. Serve three to a portion after turning over them a little melted butter. This recipe and those that follow make sufficient cakes to serve six people.

Wheat Cakes with Brazilian Sauce.—This will be found a reliable recipe for the wheat cakes. One quart of flour, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder and half a teaspoonful of salt; sift well together and add sweet milk enough to make a soft batter. Bake the cakes at once on a hot griddle, being sure that they are thin. For the sauce take one pint of rich red stock and add to it pepper, salt, a tablespoonful of Worcestershire sauce, a tablespoonful of ketchup and a teaspoonful of sugar. Boil up and thicken with a little butter and flour creamed together. Chop finely to-

gether two red peppers after removing the seed cores, two shallots and half a can of button mushrooms. Saute the mixture in butter until cooked, then add to the sauce. The sauce is served in a tureen which is passed as the cakes are served.

Lentil Pancakes.—Take three heaping cups of lentil flour and half a cup of white flour and mix them together. Add a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, a half teaspoonful of salt and a teaspoonful of sugar. Mix and add a cup of milk, then fold in the stiffly beaten whites of two eggs. Beat the batter until light and add a little more milk if necessary. Fry and serve the cakes with a smooth rich tomato sauce.

Rice Pancakes.—The rice pancakes are made in the same way as are the wheat cakes except that rice flour is substituted for wheat flour. The quantities will remain about the same in both cases, but the cook must use her own discretion in the mixing of the batter. The curry sauce is made by adding to a pint of white stock a teaspoonful of curry powder that has been dissolved in a tablespoonful of chutney syrup and half a cup of the hot stock. Season the whole well and thicken with butter rubbed to a cream with a little browned flour.

Lima Pancakes.—The lima pancakes are made the same as the lentil pancakes, only using lima bean flour in place of the lentil flour. These vegetable flour are new and their handling is rather difficult until one gets the knack. They are light when dry, much heavier when wet. For that reason the white of egg is used without the yolk for the purpose of lightening the batter. The cheese sauce that is served with the lima pancakes has for its foundation a rich, light cream sauce, not thick and pasty, but creamy and well seasoned. Just before serving add to every three cups of the sauce, three-quarters of a cup of grated English cheese.

The buckwheat cakes are made in the usual way and must be thin and light to be good. The sausage that may be served with them should be slipped from the cases or the loose

sausage meat used. Place it in a bowl and season with a little finely powdered sweet herbs, pepper, salt, a tablespoonful of Worcestershire sauce, two tablespoonfuls of sweet cream and the stiffly beaten white of one egg. Beat it thoroughly and form into flat, thin cakes that will fry quickly. Serve sandwich fashion between two cakes, and each sandwich is a portion. Serve with them a tureen of hot honey, or, if preferred, a thin chestnut sauce.

For the second course of the feast the plain wheat cakes are served, accompanied by sweet butter, maple syrup and cream. For the last course, which is, most properly, the dessert course and thus a sweet one, there are several excellent cakes to choose from, two kinds only being served.

Mocha Pancakes.—The plain wheat cake batter is used for these cakes, which are laid up jellylike fashion with a mocha filling. Three are served to each portion, the top being dusted with a little powdered sugar and finely chopped nuts. Make the mocha filling the same as for the layer cakes, only thinner, so it will spread easily.

Banana Pancakes.—These cakes are made of banana flour. The quantities are the same as for the wheat cakes. Fry the cakes a little larger than usual and as thin as possible. For the sauce chop six bananas and fold them into two cups of whipped cream, then add a cup of honey, beating all smoothly together.

Austrian Pancakes.—The Austrian cakes are made of the wheat flour, thin and as large as a tea plate. When they are cooked have ready a fine hard sauce made of butter and sugar flavored with vanilla and having blanched almonds chopped through it, and spread each cake quickly and roll it. Serve two to a portion and pass peach marmalade with the cakes.

French jelly pancakes are too well known to require a recipe and are also too good to overlook in planning for this course. A new sauce will glorify the plattest of wheat cakes and elevate it to the dessert class, so not only the rich sauces but the fruit sauces may be used as well and are very easy to make.

EARNING WITH A NEEDLE

THE woman who is handy with a needle need not lack employment, and if she is clever in catching artistic ideas she can make so much more money in a pleasant occupation. There is much work to be done aside from regular dressmaking, millinery and knitting. For instance, the vocation of dressmaking is as old as the beach sands, but many odd time occupations which are distinctly new have evolved themselves from the seamstress's tasks. There is a woman in one town who works buttonholes. For many reasons she could not do regular dressmaking, but she takes in many a penny in the course of a year. People who do their own sewing but dislike the buttonholing bring the garments to her for this finishing, and even the village dress-

maker often sends in a bundle of various garments to be "buttonholed" in a time of rush.

From the easy buttonholes in lingerie blouses at one cent each her prices range to two cents each in woolen dresses and motor coats and to five and sometimes ten cents a hole in corduroy, fur and heavy cloth coats. She charges according to material and the time and skill required. She does no other kind of sewing. She has found it profitable to buy by the dozen buttonhole twist and thread of the right size in a variety of standard colors, the price of which is included in her charges. Buying by the dozen she gets the material cheaper.

Another woman makes skating and motor caps and horse's. Reckoning a few years ago with the knitted toques

to combine materials and ideas artistically.

You take her a sleeve from an old velvet coat and a strip of fur cut from the best part of your worn scarf and a piece of almost any old thing for the outside. Again, she substitutes lining, give her an hour or two of grace and she can evolve for you a warm skating toque, for which you gladly pay her 50 cents. Perhaps you have only a piece of silk, a length of velvet, a fancy button and a tassel or two, but presto, under her magic touch comes forth a becoming piece of head-gear. She twists a bit of ribbon into a bewildering shape, fastens it with needle and thread, pulls it this way, and there is a flower to adorn your motor cap.

She disclaims the title of milliner and denies she makes hats. Her eager patrons call them creations. You say she could make her fortune in a city shop; perhaps so, but the city is already overcrowded and she prefers to stay in her niche and make home happy for husband and the babies.

There are many women whose employment denies them time for fittings and to whom ready made clothes are distasteful. Here is the opportunity for the retoucher of ready made garments. She makes a specialty of adding individual touches. It may be the substitution of a fur collar and

manufacturer made the price possible.

You take it to Miss Hetcher and she transforms it into a luxurious garment by the insertion of a lining worthy of the outside. Again, she substitutes ornamental braid loops and fastenings for the tailored buttons on a coat.

A leather collar and cuffs make of a strict tailored suit a chic affair. She knows how! She has a practical sense of the artistic in relation to dress and may advise a little braiding on coat and skirt, or fur buttons on a long cloth coat. She takes a plain tailored blouse and embroiders tiny bows or flowers on the front and cuffs, scattering them at intervals till the blouse resembles an imported one. One piece dress may need only new cuffs and cuffs or a different belt to distinguish it.

Then there is the woman who specializes in remodeling old garments. Many dressmakers will not touch old goods, and so the woman who will not have confidence to cut into other people's new goods finds ready custom when she hangs out her shingle. Remodeling sleeves, changing the length of skirt, adding a belt, collar or vest is a comparatively simple matter, but complete remodeling takes more time. The remodeler charges 25 cents an hour. In some localities 20 cents an hour would be reasonable.

Another woman who could not find time to do dressmaking in its fullness cuts, bastes and fits garments for her patrons who do their own finishing. Practice has made her adept at maneuvering a pattern and utilizing short lengths. In many instances the successful basting of a skirt is due to the proper cutting according to the weave of the material and the careful basting. Many women who cannot afford to have a dress made are glad to get this much done.

Another woman who could not find time to do dressmaking in its fullness cuts, bastes and fits garments for her patrons who do their own finishing. Practice has made her adept at maneuvering a pattern and utilizing short lengths. In many instances the successful basting of a skirt is due to the proper cutting according to the weave of the material and the careful basting. Many women who cannot afford to have a dress made are glad to get this much done.

Laces do not figure prominently of the newest blouses, except when a part of a three piece suit. Instead of laces, cordings on Georgette crepe and hemstitching on crepe de chine and silk voile blouses. Rows of machine stitching, executed with a long stitch and coarse silk, are used for the heavier quality of crepe de chine.

A trimming feature is buttons of every variety, and buttons of cotton material are used for silk waists. As sleeves are long, but collars are not, chokers, many excellent models being shown, with the "cal montant" in the back only, with a V in the front. Yokes like emplacements, novel drop shoulder effects and set in sleeve arrangements occupy the attention of blouse designers at present.

Stays have been popular for some time, but an elastic band in a casing is used in order to accomplish the same effect and economize on material. Many are made of a combination of crepe de chine and charmeuse silk. So popular are combinations that except in case of silk jerseys and Georgette crepe, the blouse made of one fabric is seldom seen.

One is made of applied crepe de chine with narrow plaitings of crepe de chine, trimmed with silk or brocade and tassels. Another is blue satin with narrow black folds for finishing. The belt is made of one fabric is seldom seen.

Others are made of plain silk or silk voile, with hemstitching on the sleeves and chemise. Tulle waists are of dark colored tulle, trimmed with white buttons and white machine stitching. Another combination is of crepe de chine trimmed with steel ball buttons, with collar of crepe de chine.

White collars and cuffs make of a strict tailored suit a chic affair. She knows how! She has a practical sense of the artistic in relation to dress and may advise a little braiding on coat and skirt, or fur buttons on a long cloth coat. She takes a plain tailored blouse and embroiders tiny bows or flowers on the front and cuffs, scattering them at intervals till the blouse resembles an imported one. One piece dress may need only new cuffs and cuffs or a different belt to distinguish it.

The well dressed woman is fastidious about all such trifles and is again.

which sprang into popularity she has found her business increasing with her cleverness. Each season she buys a supply of the newest paper patterns, of becoming headwear and has learned

cuffs on a coat, of a few leather bands stitched on a skirt. A suit may need different buttons to improve it. It is a nice fur or corduroy coat is bought cheap and you discover the

THE CHILD'S "WHILE AWAY" BOX

CHILDREN when travelling are more than apt to become restless, and it is quite apparent that they need something to divert them, something to look forward to.

Just at this season when families are starting off on trips to southern lands care must be taken that the small members of the party are amused. A box or package of gifts for the children may be arranged at little cost or trouble.

If one does not mind expense and is anxious for something decidedly unique and unusual there are exclusive shops which make a specialty of these surprise boxes, filled with charming and interesting novelties for little people. When these are being ordered any individual taste may be catered to at no extra expense.

If one is preparing a "home made" travel box, equally successful and just as welcome, it should be made just as mysterious in appearance as possible. The outside wrappings should be far from indicative of the contents. One may have surrounding each present different sized boxes which have to be unwrapped and untied before the gift is disclosed. Last summer two little boys, bound for Europe had great fun with their "while away" box, which was ingeniously covered with saddle cloth and with soft rope in numerous nautical knots, with instructions on the package saying the knots were to be untied, cut out.

The small packages making up the whole should be labelled in detail as to just what day and hour they should be opened. Anticipation does wonders. A woman who has just completed an attractive box for a young nephew starting next week for Bermuda had enclosed each gift in what looks to be a bombon wrapper. These little cylindrical packages are covered with gay paper and there is a personal motto in each. The gifts, a fountain pen, silver lead pencil, compass, knife and a long box of chocolates, fit in easily.

A more elaborate box fitted up last summer for a gift of to contained an assortment of square and flat packages, including a small camera, a leather sewing kit, a geography game, a package of drinking cups, all packed into an attractive dark blue leather travelling case. The instructions for opening the several boxes were in quaint rhyme.

In planning a "surprise travel box" the gift for the first day or hour might be a box of nuts or mints, for the second an amusing game. Another package might reveal a notebook and a set of sharpened pencils, so small a thing as a pair of blue linen beanbag monogrammed in white would help afford some fun on the deck of a steamer.

For only a little expense one can get up a series of pleasant surprises similar to one planned for a trip to California last winter. The good natured porter was entrusted with the several neat looking packages tied up in blue barred paper and wide blue ribbon. Each morning while the small niece was at breakfast the package was laid in her seat and the same experience repeated at luncheon. All of the passengers became equally interested in the opening of the pastime surprises planned by a devoted aunt.

There was an ordinary tablet and pencil, a cloth scrapbook with a tube of glue and a supply of pictures to paste in, a book of comic pictures and the crayons with which to color them. Then there were sweets mixed in among the practical articles, such as a quaint black and white box containing little cakes, then a tiny crate full of miniature candy oranges, chocolate bars, dates, etc.

For the sturdy gift one can think of any number of things sure to be a source of entertainment to a child. The folding animals, which are worth while. An assortment of beads and a few coarse needles amused a small girl on a trip to Florida last winter. A crocheting book, a geography game, a crocheting book that equaled the advice on another long trip.

Now that knitting is so much in vogue and children are so interested in the old art and craft, it would welcome a "wonder box" which is a large ball of colored wool, which is being unwound on knitting needles, reveals various, which are not to be obtained until the needles are knitted off. There are also clever books which are not only amusing, but also instructive. Those who are fond of colored house furnishings should have a box of crayons. Then there are bird, flower and landscape pictures, equally suitable for travel.

For only a little expense one can get up a series of pleasant surprises similar to one planned for a trip to California last winter. The good natured porter was entrusted with the several neat looking packages tied up in blue barred paper and wide blue ribbon. Each morning while the small niece was at breakfast the package was laid in her seat and the same experience repeated at luncheon. All of the passengers became equally interested in the opening of the pastime surprises planned by a devoted aunt.

There was an ordinary tablet and pencil, a cloth scrapbook with a tube of glue and a supply of pictures to paste in, a book of comic pictures and the crayons with which to color them. Then there were sweets mixed in among the practical articles, such as a quaint black and white box containing little cakes, then a tiny crate full of miniature candy oranges, chocolate bars, dates, etc.

For the sturdy gift one can think of any number of things sure to be a source of entertainment to a child. The folding animals, which are worth while. An assortment of beads and a few coarse needles amused a small girl on a trip to Florida last winter. A crocheting book, a geography game, a crocheting book that equaled the advice on another long trip.

Now that knitting is so much in vogue and children are so interested in the old art and craft, it would welcome a "wonder box" which is a large ball of colored wool, which is being unwound on knitting needles, reveals various, which are not to be obtained until the needles are knitted off. There are also clever books which are not only amusing, but also instructive. Those who are fond of colored house furnishings should have a box of crayons. Then there are bird, flower and landscape pictures, equally suitable for travel.

TODAY'S BEAUTY TALK

You can make a delightful shampoo with every little thing you find your druggist a package of borax and dissolve a teaspoonful in a pint of hot water. Your shampoo is ready. Just pour a little of it on the scalp and rub briskly. The created abundance of lather, which removes all dandruff, even the dirt. After rinsing, the hair is quickly, with a fluffiness that makes it seem heavier than it is, and it is on a rich luster and a softness that make arranging it a pleasure.